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To: ["R7.Senior" <Staff>](#)  
CC:  
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Subject: St. Louis Post-Dispatch - State seeks legal action against Bridgetonlandfill owner

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## State seeks legal action against Bridgeton landfill owner

[http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/state-seeks-legal-action-against-bridgeton-landfill-owner/article\\_05ef12a2-bdde-5d25-a487-a2a1acc29317.html](http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/state-seeks-legal-action-against-bridgeton-landfill-owner/article_05ef12a2-bdde-5d25-a487-a2a1acc29317.html)

By Lisa Brown

3/22/13

**BRIDGETON** • The head of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources is pressing the state attorney general to take legal action against the owner of a landfill where foul odors and underground smoldering have raised concerns.

DNR Director Sara Parker Pauley sent a letter to the attorney general's agricultural and environment division Thursday, requesting the state "institute appropriate legal action to resolve any past, present, or future environmental violations" at the Bridgeton Sanitary Landfill at 13570 St. Charles Rock Road, just north of Lambert-St. Louis International Airport. The 52-acre landfill is owned by Phoenix-based Republic Services Inc.

No examples of violations were included in the director's letter.

Nanci Gonder, a spokeswoman for the attorney general's office, said the office had received the request, but declined to comment about what steps the office may take. "We just received the referral and do not have further comment at this time," Gonder wrote in an email.

In a statement, Bridgeton Landfill LLC said the company "has been cooperating with MDNR and local government officials at all levels as we work to resolve the odor issues at the landfill. We're now looking forward to also working with Attorney General Koster and his team."

Bridgeton Landfill is a subsidiary of Republic Services.

On a website the company created about the landfill's odor problem, [bridgetonlandfill.com](http://bridgetonlandfill.com), Republic Services stated Thursday that drilling over the next five days for new gas collection wells in an effort to manage odors could actually increase the odors temporarily. "We apologize, and want you to know that we are working as quickly as possible to minimize these occurrences," the company's posting stated.

Permitted in 1985, the Bridgeton landfill stopped taking waste in 2004. For the past two years, an underground portion of the landfill has smoldered, giving off foul odors. Complaints about the smell intensified in October after Republic Services drilled holes in the ground to respond to the buildup of heat at the property.

DNR has been conducting air quality sampling near the landfill to evaluate potential public health concerns related to air quality. On Tuesday, DNR said concentrations of hydrogen sulfide levels in February warranted further review. Heavy exposure to hydrogen sulfide can cause headaches and irritation to the nose, eyes and throat, the DNR said on its website.

The subsurface fire at the Bridgeton landfill is 1,200 feet from radioactive waste at the West Lake Landfill, an adjacent landfill, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"With these kinds of sites, the companies seek to delay, delay, delay," said Kat Logan, director of environmental policy at the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, a statewide environmental organization based in University City. She said she supported DNR's request for the attorney general's office to take legal action. "This is the DNR saying, the state can't afford to clean up this mess and Missouri taxpayers shouldn't be left holding the bag," Logan said.